

A, -This is a 35 U.S.C. 111 application filed under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) on January 17, 2001,  
which claims priority to U.S. Serial No. 09/016,995, filed February 2, 1998.--

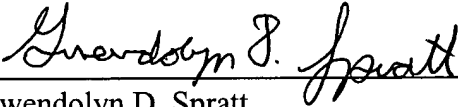
REMARKS

The specification is amended herein to claim priority to pending application U.S. Serial No. 09/016,995. Applicants assert that this amendment adds no new matter and respectfully request entry of this amendment.

It is believed that this paper is being timely filed and that no fee is required for the filing thereof. However, if a fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 14-0629.

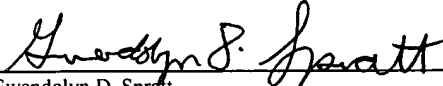
Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date shown below.

  
Gwendolyn D. Spratt

5-16-01  
Date